

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510-1304

June 22, 2026

The Honorable David A. Fink
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fink:

I am writing regarding the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application for funding through the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program. This funding will enable IDOT to continue work on the P2 Rock Island Connection stage of the 75th Corridor Improvement Project providing support for passenger and freight rail networks across Illinois and the Midwest.

Belt Junction, one of the nation's most notorious rail chokepoints, currently services approximately 90 freight and passenger trains daily along shared track systems, resulting in significant delays. Metra currently operates 30 Southwest Service trains alongside Amtrak's three weekly Cardinal trains. This federal funding will advance construction of a flyover bridge to reroute Metra lines and alleviate traffic through Belt Junction in conjunction with the neighboring NS Landers Intermodal Yard, which handled 382,329 lifts in 2023. This reroute will enhance nationwide freight movement and strengthen supply chains.

The P2 project is equally important for passenger rail performance. Chicago's Union Station, the busiest station in the National Network, serves more than 3 million customers annually and hosts 17 intercity lines. By redirecting Metra's 30 daily trains to LaSalle Street Station, P2 will improve reliability and travel times for Amtrak services across the Midwest, including the Cardinal route connecting New York to Chicago via major destinations such as Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Indianapolis.

Please give full and fair consideration to the Illinois Department of Transportation's CRISI Program application. If you require additional information, please contact my Downstate Director, Kaylee Gholson, at (217) 492-4062.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator